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The Medical Library Assistance Extension Act of 1970: Summary of New Legislation and Progress Report

by
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MEDICAL LIBRARY

On February 25, 1970, the Conference Report on H.R. 11702 for the Extension of the Medical Library Assistance Act was issued. On the following day, both the House and Senate voted to approve the report of the conference. The bill was signed into law (Public Law 91-212) by President Nixon on March 13, 1970.

The new Act provides a three-year extension of the authority of the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965. (This is the first Public Law passed by the present Administration allowing extension of authority for more than a one-year period.) The total maximum authorization provided by the Act is $23.4, $25.5, and $27.5 million for the first, second, and third years respectively, compared to $21 million per year under the current law. Other changes include a deletion of the formula for resource grants, the addition of demonstration project authority for research grants, contract as well as grant authority for the Regional Library Programs, and a provision for planning grants for regional libraries. A limited transfer of funds within the various grant appropriations is authorized by this Act.

Tables I and II (below) summarize major features of the current and new legislation. Table I summarizes provisions which affect all programs, and Table II cites the seven grant programs established by the Medical Library Assistance Act and continued under the extension bill. (Administration of the program to construct medical library facilities was transferred, as of December 1968, to the Bureau of Health Professions, Education and Manpower Training, National Institutes of Health, which will implement changes proposed for this program.)

Certain of the facilitating amendments noted in Table II will require revision of information and policy statements and related application and review materials. NLM has begun developing plans for implementing these changes.

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(Extension Act, from Page 1)

Background

The Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-291), signed into law in October 1965, was intended to meet urgent national needs for better health information services. These needs included improved health library resources and facilities, more trained manpower, and better health communications tools and methodology. The magnitude of these deficiencies and the need for a Federal program were documented in the 1964-65 report of The President's Commission on Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke, and in testimony given in hearings held before the appropriate House and Senate Committees in 1965. The late Representative John E. Fogarty, in testimony on behalf of this legislation, noted that it "wisely assumes that private, local, and state resources will continue to carry most of the expense of our Nation's library system. At the same time it assumes that the leadership role of the NLM should be recognized, utilized and strengthened."

Accomplishments under the Act of 1965

With the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965 destined to expire in 1970, it became necessary in 1969 to evaluate the effectiveness of the programs created by this legislation to determine whether they should be continued, and, if so, how. Although the programs were in some instances new and experimental, with only a few years of experience at a pilot level of operation through which to test their effectiveness, the Administration endorsed their continuation.

Dr. William H. Stewart, then Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Services, in his statement on May 22, 1969, before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Public Health and Welfare of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, summarized the status of medical libraries in 1965, and told of the progress made since then with the support of the Medical Library Assistance Act:

> "Mr. Chairman, there is a vital need to maintain support for this country's health communication facilities. Medical libraries constitute a fundamental baseline for our entire national health effort in patient care, biomedical research, and the training of professional personnel in the health sciences.....
>
> "What has been accomplished to date under the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965? A total of $95 million for fiscal years 1966-70 was authorized, and $41.6 million (estimated) appropriated in supported of the seven programs funded under this legislation. Grants totaling some $11.2 million have been made to support the construction of 11 health libraries in educational institutions

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New Associate Director for Extramural Programs

Dr. Leroy L. Langley, formerly of the National Heart Institute, NIH, has been named Associate Director for Extramural Programs, at the National Library of Medicine. The appointment, announced by Dr. Martin M. Cummings, NLM Director, became effective March 22.

Since 1964, Dr. Langley has served as Chief of the Training Grants and Awards Branch in the National Heart Institute's Extramural Programs. In his new position, he replaces David F. Kefauver, now the Deputy Assistant Director for Extramural Programs and Behavioral Sciences with the National Institute of Mental Health.

A native of Philadelphia, Dr. Langley received his bachelor's degree in physiology at UCLA in 1938, an M.A. from Stanford University, and his doctorate in 1942 from Yale University, where he continued as an honorary research fellow and assistant for one year. He then completed three years of military service as a Lieutenant in the Navy Hospital Service Corps in 1946. Eight years later, he earned a law degree from the Birmingham School of Law in Alabama.

From 1946-48, Dr. Langley was a research fellow at the Institute de Biofiscia in Rio de Janeiro. During this time, he became editor and owner of the Brazil Herald and served as a foreign correspondent for the American Broadcasting Company.

Dr. Langley returned to the U.S. in 1948 and became a professor of physiology at the University of Alabama School of Dentistry and the Medical College of Alabama. In 1962-63, he visited Turkey under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Commission as an expert in the medical applications of radioisotopes. He also established and directed the Radiobiology Institute at the Ankara Medical School and planned the Diagnostic and Research Laboratories at the Haseki Hospital in Istanbul.

Funds Appropriated for NLM Annex

Congress recently appropriated $900,000 for the architectural and engineering design work for an annex to the National Library of Medicine. Planning for this annex, to be designated the Lister Hill Center, began in 1966.

The preliminary design, prepared by the same firm which designed the NLM building, has undergone several changes. The current preliminary design calls for a building resembling a tower to be located adjacent to the southwest corner of the NLM building. It will contain approximately 200,000 gross square feet of space.

In addition to the Lister Hill Center organization, the building will house the offices of Extramural Programs, Specialized Information Services, the Office of Computer and Engineering Services, and some offices of Library Operations and the Office of Administrative Management.

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MEDLARS Tape Users Briefings

Two meetings were recently held at the Library to acquaint users of MEDLARS I computer tapes with the implications of MEDLARS II development (*News*, August 1969). The first meeting, January 14-15, was designed for users within the United States; the second, February 24-25, was for foreign tape users.

The presentations by NLM staff and the Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) centered on hardware and software concepts and design, applications design for the INITIAL phase of MEDLARS II (scheduled to become operational September 1, 1970), and projected support to present MEDLARS tape users.

A major topic of discussion was the means by which the enhanced capabilities of MEDLARS II could be applied to the users' needs. Possible alternatives include 1) providing tape in MEDLARS I format, 2) providing the total MEDLARS II package, and 3) modifying MEDLARS II retrieval and format programs to operate in the typical environment of the users, i.e., as another job at the university computing center. CSC emphasized the latter alternative and proposed a number of ways of adapting MEDLARS II programs for use in remote centers with IBM 360 equipment. Each proposal was discussed in terms of: 1) type of search capability that would be available from a computer processing point of view, i.e., directory vs. linear search; 2) amount of effort in man-months to make the necessary modifications; and 4) minimum computer configuration necessary to run the programs.

Attending the first meeting were representatives from Ohio State University, the State University of New York (SUNY), the Texas Medical Center, and the universities of Alabama, Colorado, and Minnesota. Those gathered at the February meeting represented the German Institute for Medical Documentation and Information (DIMDI), the

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(Extension Act, from Page 2)

throughout the country, providing 330,000 square feet of new medical library space. For the purpose of increasing and organizing the health library resources of the Nation, 392 resource grants totaling over $11 million will have been awarded by the close of fiscal year 1970 for improved and expanded services in health libraries. During the same period, nine regional library awards totaling $5 million will have been made, thus organizing health information services in cooperative, regional partnerships, designed to utilize the country's resources more effectively.

"To expedite access, availability, and utility of health information through research and development, 65 projects, totaling some $5.9 million, will have been supported. In addition, some 67 awards, totaling $2.9 million for 29 projects, to repackage, synthesize, and distribute secondary literature resources in a wide spectrum of the health sciences have been made.

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(Extension Act, from Page 4)

> "In 1965, the country had 6,000 medical libraries, but less than 3,000 trained librarians to staff them. With just under $4.5 million appropriated under the Medical Library Assistance Act, some 20 graduate and postgraduate training programs have been initiated, and 309 persons will have received training through 1970. These programs have highlighted the application of modern concepts and innovative technology to problems of information processing."

Dr. Stewart went on to note that demands for health information services have increased both in level and in kind since 1965, generated in part by the creation of new U.S. health service programs and a greater national concern for improved health services as well as health research development. He cited continuing and growing needs for additional health information manpower, health library resources, particularly hospital library resources and services.

COMPARISON OF MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSISTANCE ACT AND EXTENSION BILL PASSED BY CONGRESS

Table I. *General Provisions*

PROVISIONS OF MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSISTANCE ACT	PROVISIONS OF EXTENSION BILL PASSED BY CONGRESS FEBRUARY 1970
Title: "Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965" Public Law 89-291	"Medical Library Assistance Extension Act of 1970" Public Law 91-212
Period of Authorization:	
October 22, 1965 through June 30, 1970	July 1, 1970 through June 30, 1973
Funds Authorized:	
$11 million first year $21 million each year thereafter (Authorizes two-year availability of funds appropriated)	$23.5 million first year (FY 1971) $25.5 million second year (FY 1972) $27.5 million third year (FY 1973) (Continues two-year availability authorization)
Transfer of funds among programs:	
Not authorized	Authorizes limited transferability of appropriated funds among programs
Delegation of authorities:	
Refers to authority of the Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service	Cites authority of Secretary, USDHEW, to become effective as of date of enactment. (All other provisions effective July 1, 1970.)

(Table II on Page 6)

Table II. *Provisions for Each Program*

PROVISIONS OF MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSISTANCE ACT	PROGRAM	PROVISIONS OF EXTENSION BILL PASSED BY CONGRESS FEBRUARY 1970
	CONSTRUCTION	
$10 million per year authorized Permits awards in absence of matching funds Requires priority consideration where "need is greatest" for construction of medical library facilities		$11 million first year (FY 1971) $12 million second year $13 million third year Deletes authority for award in absence of matching funds Deletes priority requirement of "need"
	TRAINING GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS	
$1 million per year authorized for predoctoral and postdoctoral training for service and research in health communication fields		$1.5 million first year (FY 1971) $1.75 million second year $2.0 million third year
	SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS	
$500,000 per year authorized for "special fellowships" to qualified individuals for outstanding scholarly writing projects		Continues present $ authorization Renumbers sections to combine section for special scientific projects with section for research and development Changes "fellowships" to "grants" Authorizes awards to institutions as well as to individuals
	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	
$3 million per year authorized for grants to support projects of research and development in health information needs, behavior, tools, and technology for information storage and retrieval		Continues present $ authorization Authorizes support of demonstration projects Combines R&D section with section for special scientific projects (above)
	MEDICAL LIBRARY RESOURCE GRANTS	
$3 million per year authorized for grants to improve and expand basic resources of health libraries, to improve services Limits award to percentage of library's budget and requires decreasing support for each year after the first		$3.5 million first year (FY 1971) $4.0 million second year $4.5 million third year Authorizes establishment of basic resources Substitutes requirement for continuing non-Federal support in place of formula for award limitation and provision for decreasing award levels after first year

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(Comparison of the Two Acts, Table II, From Page 6)

PROVISIONS OF MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSISTANCE ACT	PROGRAM	PROVISIONS OF EXTENSION BILL PASSED BY CONGRESS FEBRUARY 1970
	REGIONAL MEDICAL LIBRARY PROGRAM	
$2.5 million per year authorized to support grants for a system of regional library programs to help to optimize availability to health information services to remote users Requires priority for award based upon "the need of such library"		$3.0 million first year (FY 1971) $3.25 million second year $3.5 million third year Adds authority to permit support of planning activities and data gathering Adds authority to permit use of contract mechanism under the same limitations as provided for grants under this section Deletes requirement of priority based upon "need of such library"
	BIOMEDICAL PUBLICATIONS	
$1 million per year authorized for grants for support of scientific health publications and writing projects, including critical reviews, handbooks, atlases, compendia, directories, and serial publications of a secondary nature such as abstracting, indexing, and related information tools Limits support of periodical publications to three years		Continues present $ authorization Permits exceptions to three-year limitation on periodical publication support as determined by the Secretary, USDHEW

(Briefings, from Page 4)

French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), the Japanese Information Center for Sciences and Technology (JICST), the National Library of Australia, the Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) in England, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The meeting for foreign tape users followed essentially the same agenda as that for the earlier briefing, with the addition of information on the design of the citation and vocabulary files. A problem which remains for the domestic users is the timing of computer acquisitions with the availability of the programs from NLM. Unlike the domestic users, who process using either the programs from NLM written for the Honeywell 800 or the programs from Ohio State written for the IBM 7094 (modified to also run on the IBM 7040), the foreign tape users have, for the most part, written their own programs. For this reason, the main problem of the foreign tape users is not necessarily the computer configuration, but rather what it will take to modify their present computer programs to take advantage of the capabilities of MEDLARS II. Cooperative program development and NLM-written programs were among the possible solutions discussed.

(Annex, from Page 3)

The plan for the new building includes rehabilitation of the existing NLM building -- which, incidentally, will have been occupied eight years as of April 1970. This rehabilitation will return the space to its original design and allow for greater expansion of the Library's stacks, since presently the growth margin is limited to about five years.

Dr. Martin M. Cummings, NLM Director, has appointed a building committee to develop the Program of Requirements (POR) for the new building. The Committee will be chaired by Mr. George Russell, NLM Executive Officer, and will have as members Dr. Ruth M. Davis, Director of the Lister Hill Center; Dr. Joseph Leiter, Associate Director for Library Operations; and Dr. Lee Langley, Associate Director for Extramural Programs.

New NLM Literature Searches

Single copies of the following new bibliographies are available on request to the Literature Search Program, Reference Section, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

L.S. No.	Title
10-69	Insect control by sexual sterilization. Supplement to L.S. 15-68. September 1968 - October 1969. (59 citations)
11-69	Toxicity of pesticides to man. Supplement to L.S. 27-68. August 1968 - October 1969. (241 citations)
70-1	Drug therapy of alcoholism. January 1967 - December 1969. (323 citations)
70-2	Adverse effects of oral contraceptives. January 1967 - December 1969. (469 citations)
70-3	Mortality or self-destructive behavior in drug abuse. January 1967 - December 1969. (59 citations)
70-4	Non-nutritive sweeteners. January 1967 - December 1969. (65 citations)
70-5	Drug abuse and crime. January 1967 - December 1969. (73 citations)
70-6	The effects of diet and nutrition on learning. January 1967 - December 1969. (61 citations)
70-7	Dyslexia. January 1967 - December 1969. (162 citations)
70-8	Health care for the poor in the United States. January 1967 - December 1969. (132 citations)
70-9	Programmed instruction in medicine and allied professions. January 1967 - December 1969. (108 citations)
70-10	Computer applications in human electrocardiography. January 1964 - December 1969. (284 citations)
70-11	Medical care in developing countries. January 1967 - December 1969. (299 citations)
70-12	Risk of infection in the microbiology laboratory. January 1967 - December 1969. (143 citations)
70-13	Adverse effects of food additives. Janaury 1967 - December 1969. (41 citations)